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BOOK REVIEWS

The Truce in the Far East and its Aftermath. By B. L. PUTNAM WEALE. (New York: The Macmillan Company. 1907. Pp. 647. Map of the Far East.)

Signs and Portents in the Far East. By EVERARD COTES. (London: Methuen. 1907. Pp. 308.)

The former imperial customs official who writes under the pen-name B. L. Putnam Weale, has added another large volume to his valuable studies on contemporary affairs in the Far East. His official experience, connections, and personal knowledge give him a position of great advantage as an observer of political action; he adds to these keen insight into complex movements and into political motives, the power of analysis, and a luminous, attractive style. These qualities have made him one of the most influential guides of public opinion on oriental matters. The present volume indicates that his former enthusiasm for Japanese political action has somewhat waned, although he has not veered around completely and joined the ranks of the men who see in every Japanese move the signs of a deep laid and sinister scheme of conquest. His main position, as indicated by the title of this book, is that the present situation in the Far East is merely a ten years' truce bounded by the duration of the Anglo-Japanese treaty. If, during this short period, China can develop her economic and political life so as to become capable of self-defense and of a sane national policy, it may be possible to secure a permanent Far Eastern peace, as distinguished from a Japanese, Russian, or European peace imposed upon the Far East after another destructive war.

The author devotes the first part of his work to a cursory review of the character of Japanese government and to a more detailed study of Japanese action upon the Asiatic mainland. He points out that authority is the central principle of the Japanese system, and that the representatives in Parliament do not exercise an efficient control over public policies. Social efficiency, under the control of the government, culminating in the highly organized machine of the army, is the aim secured through a great extension of governmental powers. The expenditure

of the government has increased fourfold in twelve years. To meet these financial demands, the government is instituting a monopolistic system in economic activities. A tobacco, salt, and camphor monopoly has already been established; the State has recently acquired the railways, and through subsidies it exercises a controlling influence over the merchant marine. The prominent banks coöperate with the department of finance to such an extent as to place all important financial operations within the sphere of governmental influence.

The author next turns to the situation in Corea. He points out the basis for misunderstanding in the hereditary hatred felt by the Coreans for the Japanese, and in the lawless and predatory character of the low-class elements that have invaded Corea from Japan. The Japanese government has not succeeded in creating a favorable impression among the Korean people. The problem which it confronted in 1904, was to establish its influence in Corea and to guide that unfortunate country toward a better economic and social condition, without unduly wounding Korean susceptibilities. It is plain that in this the Japanese have not succeeded. They had before them the examples of such men as Sir Andrew Clarke in the Malay States, Lieutenant-General Meade in India, and Lord Cromer in Egypt, but they did not meet the situation which confronted them with a similar success. Though their problem may have offered greater difficulties, the Japanese are held responsible for not having avoided the use of crass methods. The author criticises them for continuing military control long after it has become unnecessary, and he sees in the coldness and secretiveness of their nature, in a certain social unadaptiveness, one of the causes of their failure. He looks upon the supercession of the foreign custom service under Mr. McLeavy Brown as a distinct injury to British interests. In the last chapter of Part I, the author gives a masterly outline of the general Japanese position in South Manchuria and Corea.

The chapters of Part II give an adequate idea of the great popular forces that have been set in motion in China, and help us to appreciate the deep significance of the crisis. Events move rapidly even in China, and the details of the political situation have already been modified in important respects since this book has been written; thus the power of Viceroy Yuan for a time suffered a serious eclipse. Tieh-liang no longer stands for the Viceroy's program; indeed, it was mainly through him that H. E. Yuan's military position was undermined. To the difficulties by which Yuan's program is confronted, there must now be added direct personal attacks made upon him through memorials, denun-

ciations, and edicts, and the see-saw of court favor and intrigue at Peking which has injured some of his ablest supporters. The professional agitators of whom the author speaks are probably Chinese students returned from Japan, rather than Japanese. The national field maneuvers are not to be held annually, as the author states, but at intervals of three years. Annual maneuvers are to take place in the provinces. The statement that by 1908 China will have a first class army of 200,000 men, perhaps needs modification, in confining the term "first class" to parts only of the army; the quality of this organization differs very greatly from province to province.

The author has great confidence in the character and innate force of the Chinese people, but he keenly realizes the dangers by which the national movement is beset and the critical difficulties threatened by the mutual suspicions between the court, the officials and the people; the reformers and the reactionaries; the natives and the foreigners; the Confucionists and the missionaries. It is his final conclusion that "unless the coming decade prove the most remarkable in modern Chinese history in the matter of sound reform, it will certainly be the prelude to complications which will result in immense warfare."

The somewhat mysterious title chosen by Mr. Cotes raises expectations which his book fails to satisfy. It is indeed nothing more than a well written and interesting account of the trip of an Anglo-Indian journalist along the main routes of communication from Canton to Shanghai and Hankow, and thence to Peking, Manchuria and Corea. Were it not for the title, it would not be fair to institute a comparison between this book and the volume reviewed above. But while it is the work of a thinking man and far more serious than the ordinary traveler's chat, it does not after all materially help us to understand the "signs and portents" of the Far East, nor even to know what they are. The scenes and events described are already familiar; no new light is shed, and we miss the keen analysis of the larger movements. But looked upon merely as a book of travel, giving the impressions of a publicist, the book is very successful indeed and enlists interest and sympathy. His account of the manner in which governmental power in China is circumscribed by the right of popular resistance, and his description of the new industrial establishment in Chinese cities are very informing. But the mental attitude of the Anglo-Indian becomes apparent when he speaks of the Anglo-Japanese-American policy toward China and expresses his conviction that "Europeans at present alone possess the qualifications required for the government of the country." It would per-

haps be difficult to establish by satisfactory evidence the statement that the taxes levied by Chinese officials are at least as heavy per capita as those raised in India; and when we consider the manner in which her national debt was imposed upon China, it is perhaps unfair to charge it up against her that she has practically no reproductive works to lighten the burden of the interest payments. Mr. Cotes' judgment of the resources of Corea is more favorable than that expressed by Putnam-Weale, and he is very agreeably impressed with the Corean people. He also adds his testimony to the ill success which has attended the establishment of Japanese authority in Corea. But while the Japanese have made an unfortunate start, they are at least to be credited with some substantial reforms. They have not, however, in the author's view, faithfully lived up to the spirit of their obligations towards the merchants and industrials of other nations. In a chapter on India as a Lever in the Far East the author points out the advantages which Great Britain might derive from a close coöperation between the British and the Indian foreign offices in Far Eastern affairs.

PAUL S. REINSCH.

Practice of Diplomacy. By JOHN W. FOSTER. (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin and Company. 1906. Pp. 401.)

This volume constitutes the third larger contribution of Mr. Foster to the literature of diplomacy. It is perhaps not too much to say that in no language does there exist a more attractive work on matters which are usually dealt with in compendia or manuals of practice. The author distinctly disavows the purpose of adding to such technical writings in this work, which rather aims at giving a popular portrayal of the methods of diplomatic intercourse, and the various activities and trials of diplomatic life. With admirable clarity of style he presents the main facts of diplomatic practice, abundantly illustrating each principle, method, and requirements by instances of actual experience, frequently taken from his own experience. But the book is by no means to be classed with ordinary collections of diplomatic anecdotes. Diplomatic traditions are not uncritically accepted, but strict methods of historical investigation are employed. The anecdotes are moreover entirely ancillary, subordinate to the main current of thought. The study of the original material is everywhere apparent, and in many places controversial points are cleared up in a discriminating manner. The book